

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 222694

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ORIGIN EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 PM-03 ACDA-08 SS-20 SSO-00 CCO-00 ISO-00 /038 R

66616

DRAFTED BY: EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH

10/10/73

APPROVED BY: EUR/RPM:EJSTREATOR

CLEARANCE: S/S-MR. BARNES

PM/DCA:TSIMONS

ACDA/IR:RMILLER

SS/O: K. KURZE

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION: EUR, PM, ACDA

----- 092400

P 102028Z NOV 73 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 222694

TOSEC 384

THE FOLLOWING TEL FROM VIENNA DATED NOV 8, 1973 TO SECSTATE
WASHDC SECDEF WASHDC INFO NATO BRUSSELS BONN LONDON USNMR
SHAPE AND USCINCEUR IS REPTED:

QTE S E C R E T VIENNA 9247

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG AGREEMENT ON
SHORT TERM TACTICS

BEGIN SUMMARY: AD HOC GROUP ON NOVEMBER 8 REVIEWED
TACTICAL POSITION IN VIENNA FOLLOWING TABLING OF
SOVIET DRAFT AGREEMENT IN PLENARY EARLIER SAME DAY.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 222694

DISCUSSION FOLLOWED LINES TAKEN ON PREVIOUS EVENING

(SEE VIENNA 9205). FOLLOWING DISCUSSION AD HOC GROUP UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED FOLLOWING TEXT COVERING TACTICAL TREATMENT OF SOVIET PROPOSAL AND NEXT STEPS IN VIENNA FOR PRESENTATION TO THE NAC ON NOVEMBER 9 BY FRG REP. IF TIME CONDITIONS PERMIT, SUGGEST THAT DEPARTMENT REQUEST USNATO TO SUPPORT FRG REP'S PRESENTATION. IT IS HIGHLY IMPORTANT THAT ALLIES COMESTO RAPID CLEAR DECISION ON NEXT STEPS IN VIENNA AND NOT CREATE IMPRESSION OF INDECISION OR INCAPACITY TO DEAL WITH UNEXPECTED DEVELOPMENTS. IN ACTUALITY THOUGH MUCH OF CONTENT OF SOVIEZ DRAFT AGREEMENT IS NEGATIVE FROM OUR VIEWPOINT, FACT THAT IT WAS TABLED AT OUTSET OF NEGOTIATIONS RATHER THAN AFTER SIX MONTHS OF DEBATE MEANS THAT WE HAVE GAINED CONSIDERABLE TIME IN TERMS OF BEGINNING DISCUSSION OF HARD PROPOSALS.

END SUMMARY.

BEGIN TEXT:

POSSIBLE SHORT-TERM TACTICAL STEPS

I. IT IS DOUBTFUL WHETHER IT IS EITHER DESIRABLE OR FEASIBLE FOR THE ALLIES TO TABLE A DRAFT AGREEMENT LIKE THE ONE THE SOVIETS TABLED TODAY IN THE NEAR FUTURE. DISCUSSION SHOULD, THEREFORE, PROBABLY FOCUS ON TWO ISSUES:

(A) WHAT IS OUR POSTURE TOWARDS THE SOVIET PROPOSAL IN THE SHORT RUN? AT WHAT POINT SHOULD WE ADDRESS IT DIRECTLY?

(B) WHEN SHOULD WE PUT DOWN AN ALLIED FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL?

II. A MAIN VARIABLE FACTOR WHICH MAY INFLUENCE, PERHAPS DECISIVELY, THE SELECTION OF OUR APPROACH IS THE PUBLIC RELEASE OF THE EASTERN PROPOSAL. WE HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THIS WILL NOT OCCUR, BUT WE CANNOT RELAY ON ITS NOT HAPPENING. IN CASE OF NEED, WE SHOULD BE PREPARED TO USE THE PRESS GUIDANCE WE HAVE ALREADY DEVELOPED. THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WILL BE PUBLISHED OR LEAKED MEANS IN ANY EVENT THAT THE ALLIES SHOULD HAVE THEIR FRAMEWORK

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 222694

PROPOSAL READY FOR USE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

III. THE FOLLOWING APPROACH HAS BEEN AGREED BY THE AD-HOC-GROUP:

1. THE ALLIES COULD COMPLETE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR THEMES BY 15 NOVEMBER AND AIM FOR EARLY TABLING OF AN ALLIED FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL IN MEMORANDUM FORM. PRIOR TO TABLING THIS MEMORANDUM, THE ALLIES WOULD PRESENT A COMPREHENSIVE SUMMARY OF THEIR STATEMENT

UP TO THAT POINT. AFTER TABLING THE MEMORANDUM, THE ALLIES WOULD EMPHASIZE THE MERITS OF THE ALLIED POSITION AS SET FORTH IN THE FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL AS THE APPROPRIATE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS PREVIOUSLY DELINEATED IN THE ALLIED THEME PRESENTATIONS. THEY WOULD DELIBERATELY AVOID DETAILED DISCUSSION OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR A PERIOD.

2. IN THE EVENT THAT IT IS NOT FEASIBLE TO TABLE A FRAMEWORK MEMORANDUM WITHIN THE NEXT WEEKS, WE MAY HAVE TO ADOPT AN APPROACH OF SUBSTANTIVE CRITICAL QUESTIONING AND DIRECT CRITICISM OF THE SOVIET PROPOSAL. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE WOULD AIM TOWARDS TABLING OUR FRAMEWORK PROPOSAL, PRESENTING IT AS SUPERSEDING AN EARLIER EASTERN PROPOSAL WHOSE DEFICIENCIES HAD BEEN EXPOSED. HUMES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE222694
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EUR/RPM:VLEHOVICH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731141/aaaabeco.tel
Line Count: 130
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 31 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <31-Jan-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 MAR 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AHG AGREEMENT ON SHORT TERM TACTICS
TAGS: PARM, NATO
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005